Excerpts Planning Commission Minutes April 14, 2004

Application No. ZM-84-04, Kenneth Dale Moore c/o MRP, LLC: Request to amend the York County Zoning Map by reclassifying two parcels of land containing approximately 9.01 acres located on George Washington Highway (Route 17) and Whites Road (Route 1216) approximately 250 feet north of the intersection of Whites Road and George Washington Memorial Highway from R20 (Single-Family Residential) to IL (Limited Industrial) subject to voluntarily proffered conditions. The property is further identified as Assessor's Parcel No. 24-133 and a portion of Assessor's Parcel No. 24-128. The Comprehensive Plan designates this area for medium-density residential development ...and

Application No. UP-634-04, Kenneth Dale Moore c/o MRP, LLC: Request for a Special Use Permit, pursuant to Section 24.1-306 (Category 12, No. 18, Category 14, No. 6 and Category 15, No. 4(b)) of the York County Zoning Ordinance, to authorize auto, truck, boat and recreational vehicle storage, construction of a mini-storage warehouse facility on property located at 122 Whites Road (Route 1216) and 7307 George Washington Memorial Highway (Route 17) and to authorize access through a GB-General Business district to a proposed contractor's shop with outdoor/exposed storage at 7307 George Washington Memorial Highway approximately 250 feet north of the intersection of Whites Road and George Washington Memorial Highway. The property is further identified as Assessor's Parcel No. 24-133 and Assessor's Parcel No. 24-128. The property is zoned GB (General Business) and R20 (Single-Family Residential) and is designated for general business and medium-density residential use in the Comprehensive Plan. This application is contingent on the approval of Application No. ZM-84-04 listed above, which would reclassify the portion of the property currently zoned R20 (Single-Family Residential) to IL (Light Industrial), thus permitting the mini-storage warehouse with a special use permit and the contractor's outdoor storage yard as a matter of right. Access to that yard through the existing GB property would, however, require authorization by special use permit.

Ms. Amy Parker, Senior Planner, presented a combined staff report for the two applications in which the staff recommended approval of the applications. Ms. Parker noted the contractor's storage yard use requested in Application No. UP-634-04 would be allowed in the IL district by right if Application ZM-84-04 were approved, the requested access to the proposed contractor's shop through a GB-zoned district having triggered the need for a special use permit. Ms. Parker noted the listing in the staff report of all permitted uses if the rezoning were approved, and mentioned some uses of particular concern - including helipad, industrial park, wholesale auction or wholesale trade with outside storage, and auto storage. She added that environmental and traffic impacts on the residential area are of particular concern. The applicant has proffered

limited hours for the storage yard, extra landscaping, and an eight-foot fence surrounding the proposed storage yard.

**Ms. Parker** stated the applications are consistent with the County's objective to expand the commercial tax base and of entertaining proposals for conversion of existing residentially zoned property to commercial use. **Ms. Parker** noted that the applications meet minimum Zoning Ordinance standards with the conditions recommended. Staff therefore recommended approval of the applications through the adoption of Resolution PC04-9 (rezoning) and PC04-10 (special use permit).

**Ms. Parker** mentioned correspondence received from the Virginia Department of Transportation and Newport News Waterworks, attached to the staff report.

**Mr.** Harvell inquired as to the minimum lot size in the R20 zoning district. **Ms.** Parker said it is 20,000 square feet. She added that approximately 12 detached house lots could be developed on this particular property, allowing for stormwater management.

**Chair Simasek** opened the public hearing.

**Mr. Lamont Myers**, 108 Pheasant Watch, Mid-Atlantic Commercial Real Estate, spoke as the applicant's agent. Mr. Myers expressed appreciation for the staff's help and input. The application represents the culmination of a long search for a satellite operation for Mr. Moore's self-storage operation located on Wolf Trap Road and Route 17. He named some advantages of the current proposal, including the adjacency of commercial and IL-zoned properties, a 50-foot buffer to screen the occupied dwellings on Whites Road, positive fiscal impact, few public service demands, maintenance of 40 percent of the site as green space, and an environmentally friendly design.

Addressing the proposed contractor's storage yard, **Mr. Myers** explained that the applicant, Mr. Moore, is no longer in the site clearing business but does "odd jobs" from time to time during which the heavy equipment remains on the respective job sites. He added the storage yard would serve only Mr. Moore and would not become a large facility used by others. The equipment would be moved infrequently from the yard. He did not anticipate any considerable environmental impact because of the equipment storage.

**Mr. Myers** described the site plan, noting an office space fronting Route 17 in a single building together with a contractor's shop in the rear with direct access to the storage yard. The property would be enclosed by secure fencing, remain under 24-hour surveillance, and provide an opportunity for a proven business to continue to grow in the County. In moving the equipment from Victory Industrial Park, the applicant would cause the currently occupied facility to become available to another business.

**Mr.** Myers acknowledged the applicant had revised his original request from 5,000 SF to 12,000 SF for a contractor's storage yard for the purpose of storing and maintaining only a few pieces of equipment, although staff estimates that up to 24 pieces of heavy industrial equipment could be

stored on 12,000 SF. The applicant does not want to lock himself in to the smaller area, although he does not intend to get back into the site clearing business along with his expanded interests. The intent was based on the applicant's need for storage and need to expand, **Mr. Myers** explained.

In reply to Mr. Ptasznik's question about the location of a heliport, Mr. Myers said the applicant has no specific area of the site selected for a heliport.

**Mr. Ptasznik** mentioned that fuel would be needed to maintain a helicopter and heavy equipment in the contractor's storage yard. **Mr. Harvell** added that diesel fuel would probably be a need and asked if the applicant planned to purchase diesel fuel from the nearby retail station. **Mr. Myers** did not know.

**Mr. Barba** said the plan looked good to him although he did not like the idea of an entrance directly from Route 17 to a contractor's yard. He also wanted to know what type of business would operate in the front office space of the proposed building.

**Mr. Myers** said that was not part of the application and has not been determined, but it would be a business allowed by right.

**Mr. Barba** said access to the contractor's storage yard and a mini-warehouse facility would create a lot of traffic next to the office building, which might be a problem for the proprietor of a business located at the front of the building.

**Mr. Myers** noted there is already heavy traffic in and out of Greene Industrial Park, on Greene Drive, and he thought any added traffic would be negligible.

**Mr. Hamilton** inquired how the applicant plans to contain oil seepage from stored recreational vehicles, boats, and heavy equipment.

**Mr. Myers** said all the vehicle storage surfaces would be impervious, unlike the residential yards whose runoff could contain fertilizer chemicals. He added that, because of its location in a watershed, it is probably one of the most heavily regulated and protected areas in the County and a water quality impact assessment would be required.

**Mr. Hamilton** asked if the neighbors have commented on the proposal. **Mr. Myers** said the neighbors were informed of the proposal and seemed to have no problem with it. One neighbor said the vegetation and fence would buffer the visual impact of Greene Industrial Park from his home.

**Mr.** Harvell, noting that Victory Industrial Park is only a quarter of a mile away from the proposed site, asked why the applicant wanted to move.

**Mr. Myers** said Mr. Moore wants to make his Victory Industrial Park site available for another prospect, as an existing building is a very marketable asset to economic development.

**Mr. Art Edlow**, 102 Nancy Court, said he owns one of the subject properties. He thought the proposed use would be good for the property and produce more revenue for the County. He said the citizens would have a nice place for storing articles and vehicles, and adjacent neighbors would have an enhanced view toward Greene Drive.

Seeing no other speakers, the Chair closed the public hearing.

Mr. Ptasznik expressed concerns about maintaining residential zoning next to Greene Industrial Park and could not envision any new home construction there. He was concerned about the traffic pattern resulting from two entrances from Route 17 in such close proximity, but he believed VDOT would only approve what it believed was acceptable. He favored approving the applications because it should be an attractive addition to the area, solve some of the past problems with frontage on Route 17, bring potential business from the congested lower end of the County, and overall is a good use of the land.

**Mr. Harvell** directed attention to VDOT's concerns expressed on page two of its letter dated April 14, 2004, specifically the absence in the proffers of a limit to the number of pieces of contractor's equipment to be stored, major safety concerns, and possible impact to the overall traffic on Route 17. **Mr. Harvell** said the applicant proposed an 8-foot fence within which to store vehicles as tall as 14 feet. He also believed that, because the property in question is lower than Route 17, it would have to be built up before its proposed use. He said the property already floods under certain conditions and to add impervious surface would only increase the likelihood and frequency of flooding onto the adjacent residential sites. **Mr. Harvell** said the exact type of fuels stored in SUV's, mobile homes, boats and contractor's equipment to be stored in the yard is unknown, and could amount to 100 to 200 gallons of fuel. He also said the applicant had proposed a helipad that could conceivably be placed only 50 feet from existing residences.

**Mr. Myers** responded that Mr. Moore does not intend to develop the site any more intensively than is stated in the applications. He said the stormwater pond would be designed to hold the runoff and discharge at predevelopment runoff rate. He was not aware of any need to bring the site up to the Route 17 ground level.

**Mr. Myers** added that the applicant simply wants a self-storage facility and a contractor's storage yard that would be subject to a rigorous site plan review, which would include stormwater management controls.

Brief discussion took place about sewer to the site during which **Mr. Mark Carter** explained the necessity for the applicant to connect to a main sewer line with or without an office use.

**Mr. Barba** repeated that it appears to be a good use for the land, but he would need to know what type of business would occupy the front section before he could recommend approval.

**Mr. Simasek** said the issues of stormwater runoff and potential fuel disposal or leakage would have to be addressed during site plan review. He said it appears to be a good use of the land.

**Mr. Harvell** said the GB section of the property would not be a problem for him. However, he did not think this property was capable of being developed wisely for industrial uses. He did not think the residents of one of the quietest, most confined neighborhoods in the County deserved seeing the adjoining properties turned into a heavy equipment operation with noise and increased flooding potential.

**Mr. Ptasznik** moved the adoption of Resolution PC04-9 to approve Application No. ZM-84-04 for a rezoning.

## PC04-9

Present	<u>Vote</u>
Andrew A. Simasek, Chair	Yes
Alfred E. Ptasznik, Jr., Vice Chair	Yes
Alexander T. Hamilton	No
Robert D. Heavner	Absent
Nicholas F. Barba	No
John R. Davis	Absent
Frederick W. Harvell	No

On motion of **Mr. Ptasznik**, the following resolution was denied:

A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A REQUEST TO RECLASSIFY APPROXIMATELY 9.01 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED AT 7307 GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY AND 122 WHITES ROAD FROM R20 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO IL (LIMITED INDUSTRIAL)

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**Mr. Ptasznik** moved adoption of Resolution PC04-10 to approve Application No. UP-634-04 for a special use permit.

## PC04-10

<u>Present</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Andrew A. Simasek, Chair	Yes
Alfred E. Ptasznik, Jr., Vice Chair	No
Alexander T. Hamilton	No
Robert D. Heavner	Absent

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Nicholas F. Barba John R. Davis Frederick W. Harvell No Absent No

On motion of Mr. Ptasznik, the following resolution was denied.

## A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO AUTHORIZE A MINI-STORAGE WAREHOUSE FACILITY

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